53

52

A TRUE COPY OF A LETTER FROM COUNT *STAREMBERGH*, TO THE DUKE of *LORRAINE*, Concerning the present Condition of VIENNA.

To give you a True State of the Siege of Vienna, *from the Eighth of* July, *that the* Ottoman *Army came before it, to the Eighteenth of* August *inclusive, take this following Letter from Count* Starembergh *himself, to the Duke of* Lorraine, *as it is really Translated from the Original Letter, Printed in* High Dutch.

Vienna, August 18. 1683.

MY LORD,

GOD be thanked, we have had once the good Fortune to hear that one of our Letters is come to your *Highnesses* Hands; amongst many others that have been writ to you from hence. I humbly beg that you will believe, That it is none of our Fault that you have been no oftner informed of our Affairs: so neither will we be wanting for the future to let your Highness know how it goes with us here, as often as Opportunity shall serve. And to let you see how it is with us at present, give me leave to tell you, That we have disputed every Foot of Ground with the Enemy, and that they have not gained any thing upon us, but what hath cost them very dear; having been as often vigorously repulsed, as they have attempted to Lodge themselves, with so great Loss, that they dare not thrust their Heads out of their Holes any longer, nor appear upon those Hills which they have slung up round our Counterscarp, and by which means they endeavour to surround our Ditch. And as I have formerly informed your Highness, That the Enemies had made a Descent into the Ditch of the Raveline, and blown up a part of the Wall, and thereupon made several Assaults; but God be thanked, very unsuccessfully, we having beaten them out of their Works which they had made at the Foot of the Breach: But finding, that as soon as our Men were retreated, they returned again, I thought it Prudence to use some Precaution about it, and to

have Mined it ſo deep as to reach the Point of the Raveline; which I alſo did about the two Baſtions they had attaqued, toward which the Enemy have not yet advanced any thing, keeping themſelves ſtill at the Foot of the Counterſcarp. They made a deſcent on the 14th inſtant into the Ditch called *Leb*, lying before the *Baſtion*, and the ſame night made another Lodgment in the Ditch, but ſeeing that I could not very much incommode them neither by my Muſquetiers nor Cannon, they having buried themſelves over Head and Ears; I thought good to plant my Cannon againſt thoſe Mountains that ſorrounded the Ditch, and at the ſame time made an Attaque upon them, and drove them from thence; but not having men enough the firſt time to ruine their works, I made a ſecond Attaque, and deſtroyed them all, and having the wind favourable for us, we burnt their Gabions and a great part of their Gallery, ſince which time they never durſt appear on that ſide the *Raveline*. On the 17th they endeavoured to ſpring another Mine, but with no better ſucceſs then the former, for it blew up backwards, and did little or no hurt to the *Raveline*, there is now already made in the middle of the *Raveline* a very good Retrenchment with a deep Ditch. The *Baſtions Leb* and *Delacour* are alſo doubly retrenched, and I am now buſie at this very hour to make a Principal Retrenchment behind the two ſaid *Baſtions*; ſo that your *Highneſs* ſees there is nothing wanting in us to uſe all the precaution that can be expected from rational Men, for the preſervation of the place, and I can aſſure you, to render me worthy of the Confidence your Highneſs, and eſpecially his Imperial Majeſty my Maſter, ground on my Services, I will never deliver up the *Place*, but with the laſt drop of my blood. Withall I find that our men are no ways daunted at the ſight of the Turks, who are eaſily overcome, if attaqued with Courage, and God be thanked one of ours is able to beat ten of theirs. This day was brought to me a Janizary *Priſoner*, who was taken in the *Raveline*, who among other things tells me, That they loſt in the laſt attaque 11000 men, beſides many Officers of the Janizaries, and the Baſhaws of *Meſopotamia*, and *Albania*; That they begin to be in want of Proviſions both of Horſe and Man, which they are forced to fetch from far; That they expect a Convoy from *Baſtedo* with Ammunition, which if it could be met withall by the way, or that their Forragers could be cut off, it would make them deſperate. God be thanked, as to my health, 'tis in a very good Condition again, having had the Bloody Flux for eight days together.

POSTSCRIPT.

The 19*th* of *Auguſt*, 1683. Since yeſterday (my Lord) the Enemy have cauſed another Mine to be ſprung in the *Raveline*, and made an Aſſault with about 1000 men, but our Cannon and our Muſquetiers did ſo warmly receive them, that 300 of them were killed upon the place, and forced them to content themſelves to lodge upon a place called *Berm*, which I perceiving, cauſed a Mine to be ſprung this morning, which ſoon diſlodged them, burying moſt of them in the Ruines. I expect this very inſtant the like Regale from them, but if I can be ready ſooner than they, I will cauſe another to be ſprung to the health of your Highneſs.

Edinburgh, Re-printed in the Year, 1683.